

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
WORKSHOP SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JULY 6, 2005

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GRANT AND TO NEGOTIATE, APPROVE, AND/OR AMEND THE GRANT, WORKPLAN, AND CONTRACTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Office of Research and Development, Pacific Coastal Branch has offered the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) an additional \$303,976 in federal assistance for the assessment of California's bays and estuaries as part of the federal Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) Western Pilot Project (Project). The grant was originally awarded in FY 2004-2005 for \$255,585. The additional funding will be amended into an existing contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

The overall goal of the coastal portion of the Project is to create an integrated comprehensive coastal monitoring program in the State to assess estuarine conditions. The Project's purpose is to: 1) utilize the knowledge and expertise of State and local scientists in implementing the Project; 2) assist the State in developing a coastal monitoring strategy; and 3) help the State define reference conditions for coastal waters of California.

Anticipated benefits from this project are: 1) a general assessment of the ecological conditions of estuaries; 2) a set of standardized field collection protocols that can be used statewide for monitoring efforts in small bays and estuaries; 3) improved comparability of data collected in small bays and estuaries; 4) development of standardized electronic data formats which will facilitate the expansion of the State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program; and 5) biological indices that can be used to assist the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) in the interpretation of biological data.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept the grant in accordance with the Staff Recommendation below?

FISCAL IMPACT

Regional and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD

Yes. North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and San Diego Water Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

Authorizes the Executive Director to:

1. Apply for and accept a Federal Fiscal Year 2005 EMAP Western Pilot Project grant for an amount not to exceed \$303,976;
2. Negotiate, approve, and/or amend the grant and the workplan; and
3. Negotiate, approve, and amend contracts as necessary using the budgeted EMAP Western Pilot Project grant funds.

DRAFT

June 27, 2005

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2005-

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GRANT AND TO NEGOTIATE, APPROVE, AND/OR AMEND THE GRANT, WORKPLAN, AND CONTRACTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Office of Research and Development, Pacific Coastal Branch has offered the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) an additional \$303,976 in federal assistance for the assessment of California's bays and estuaries as part of the federal Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) Western Pilot Project.
2. The coastal EMAP Western Pilot Project grant assists the State Water Board in assessing the ecological conditions of estuaries, developing a set of standardized field collection protocols that can be used statewide for monitoring efforts in small bays and estuaries, improving comparability of data collected in small bays and estuaries, developing standardized electronic data formats which will facilitate the expansion of the State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, and developing biological indices that can be used to assist the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards in the interpretation of biological data.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

Authorizes the Executive Director to:

1. Apply for and accept a Federal Fiscal year (FFY) 2005 EMAP Western Pilot Project grant for an amount not to exceed \$303,976;
2. Negotiate, approve, and/or amend the grant and the workplan; and
3. Negotiate, approve, and amend contracts as necessary using the budgeted EMAP Western Pilot Project grant funds.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on July 21, 2005.

Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board